

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this application in light of the above amendments and following comments is courteously solicited.

The independent claims have been amended so as to include the following features:

- 1) the game machine having real time clock means for counting time in accordance with preset date and time information and outputting date and time information; and
- 2) wherein said controlling means request an input of date and time information when the game apparatus is started, compare the inputted time and date information with said date and time information of the real time clock means, and execute subsequent process if the inputted time and date information is included within a given time difference range with respect to said date and time information of the real time clock means.

None of the prior art references cited or applied by the examiner teach, disclose, suggest or render obvious these features.

None of the cited references disclose or suggest the above features 1) and 2). With regard to the newly cited reference MeRae (USP 6,104,813), this reference only discloses to compare the production date stored on the validation disk with the current system date generated internally by the player, and to output a visual display and/or audio message indicating that the validation process has failed if the current system date is earlier than the production date.

According to the disclosure of the reference MeRae, it is not possible to prevent all unauthorized use. For example, it is

possible to bypass the validation by the reference MeRae only to set the system date few days before the production date while true system date is one month before the production date, for example.

On the contrary, according to the amended main claims, since the game machine having the real time clock means and validation process is carried using the date and time information output by the real time means, it is possible to prevent all unauthorized operation of date and time data (Please refer the description in line 18 on page 17 to line 18 on page 18, for example).

Furthermore, according to the present invention, since the feature "if the inputted time and date information is included within a given time difference range with respect to said date and time information of the real time clock means" is included, it is possible to preset date and time information of the real time clock means in accordance with the Japanese standard time while the game machine is used abroad, for example US.

In light of the foregoing, it is submitted that all of the claims as presently patentably define over the art of record and an early indication of same is respectfully requested.

An earnest and thorough attempt has been made by the undersigned to resolve the outstanding issues in this case and place same in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions or feels that a telephone or personal interview would be helpful in resolving any outstanding issues which remain in this application after consideration of this amendment, the Examiner is courteously invited to telephone the undersigned and the same would be gratefully appreciated.

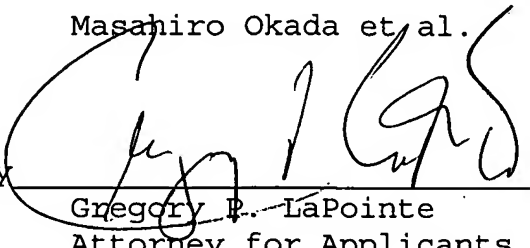
It is submitted that the claims as amended herein patentably define over the art relied on by the Examiner and early allowance of same is courteously solicited.

If any fees are required in connection with this case, it is respectfully requested that they be charged to Deposit Account No. 02-0184.

Respectfully submitted,

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I, Rachel Piscitelli, hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:
Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313" on May 15, 2006.

